

Department of Public Health
and Human Services

Section:
OTHER BENEFITS/REQUIREMENTS

TANF CASH ASSISTANCE

Subject:
Child Support Supplement Payments

Supersedes: Bulletin TB-16 (07/15/05)

≥References: ARM 37.78.102, .402, .416; House Bill 529 (2005 Legislature)

GENERAL RULE-- House Bill 529 provides that a child support supplement payment will be issued to TANF families, using TANF block grant funds. The amount is based on **current** child support collected from a non-custodial parent. This payment will be an amount equal to the amount of current child support collected, **up to but not exceeding, \$100.00 per month per TANF household.**

This total includes support from multiple non-custodial parents connected to the TANF household. No arrearages will be included in the supplement.

Beginning August 2005, the payment process was implemented with the evaluation of **current child support collected for July's obligation.** The child support supplement payment is excluded for TANF and Medicaid. The payment will be made by the same method the current TANF benefit is issued (check, direct deposit, or EBT).

The Eligibility Case Manager is not required to take any action on TEAMS for TANF or Medicaid. This process will be accomplished with information sent from SEARCHS to TEAMS. The payment month and payment amounts are displayed on the issuance history screen. (EXIH). (See Food Stamp Bulletin FS-034 for policy on how to determine if the CSED supplemental payment will affect Food Stamps.)

It is possible that a family may receive two payments in the same month due to the timing of the receipt of the non-custodial parent's payment by Child Support. Actual payments will only be issued once a month so when two payments are made, each will indicate the month for which the child support was received.

EXAMPLE #1: Child Support obligation has been established for \$100.00 per month. The absent parent is paid every other Friday with \$50.00 withheld from each check. The employer sends the first \$50.00 payment (for July) to CSED on July 15th. He does not send the second \$50.00 payment (for July) to CSED until August 10th. When the supplemental payment process is run August 1st, only one payment for \$50.00 will be issued since the employer has not yet sent the second July payment to

CSED. The family would receive a \$50.00 supplemental payment in August, which is the current amount CSED received for July.

EXAMPLE #1a To extend the example above, during August the employer sends the second July payment as well as both payments for August. The September 1st run will issue \$50.00, (the second July withholding,) and will issue \$100.00 for current August obligation. The payment for each month will be issued separately and listed separately on EXIH.

A system-generated notice will be sent to the TANF family each time a supplemental payment is issued. The notice will indicate the month for which the amount was issued.

Supplemental payments will be issued automatically via TEAMS **only** on the first working day of the month. Current child support collected in the prior two months is used to determine the amount of the supplemental payment. Information received from CSED **after** the last day of the second month will be posted to TEAMS but a payment will not automatically be issued.

EXAMPLE: On the 15th of July, the employer made a \$50.00 payment to CSED. On August 1, TEAMS ran the supplemental payment process and a payment of \$50.00 was issued. On August 5th, the employer made a payment of \$25.00 to CSED for July's current support. On August 20th, CSED collected \$75.00 for August support. On September 1st, TEAMS issued two amounts—one for \$25.00 for July and one for \$75.00 for August.

On September 10th, CSED discovered that an additional \$25.00 for current support for July had mistakenly been credited to the wrong non-custodial parent case. (Case # 1-Smith). The correction was made that day and the \$25.00 adjustment was listed on CSSD for the month of July.

When CSED posts the \$25 payment to the right non-custodial parent case (Case #2-Jones), the corrected payment can not be automatically issued by TEAMS due to the cutoff date of the last day of August for July child support payments. In this example, the payment will be issued manually.

A manual payment will be issued only if an error was made by CSED in posting the payment. Please contact Susan Rutherford at 444-9478 for assistance.

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NOTE: There will be no overpayments for any household that receives the child support supplement in error.

**SUPPLEMENT/
CASE CLOSURE**

If the case is closed for any reason, including a sanction ineligibility month, the supplement will be issued as long as the family received TANF in the month the current child support was collected.

EXAMPLE: A four-person TANF household was sanctioned for the first time in September due to non-coop of the mother and their grant was decreased. She did not renegotiate a FIA/EP in September so October was an ineligibility month. CSED collected \$80.00 in September for the older child. Although the case is closed effective September 30, 2005, the family will receive a supplement payment in October because they were TANF recipients in the month the child support was collected.

I If the family was issued TANF benefits for August, they would also receive a supplemental payment in the October issuance process for the benefit month of August if a child support payment was collected for August (in September).

There are two new TEAMS screens as a result of this change. (CSSD and CSSS) Please refer to the TEAMS bulletin entitled "Child Support Supplemental Payments" if you have any questions regarding any information displayed on TEAMS.

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